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Daylilies Make a Good Day

We always decorate the set for our T.V. Show (Down Home) with in season flowers. This week the set is loaded with gorgeous flowers from the dainty miniatures to dinner plate size gigantics from the drab colors to almost fluorescent. Most people are probably guessing some exotic or tropical hybrid, but just common place daylilies. I have never seen an ugly daylily. From the orange ones we see on the sides of road to the expensive hybrids, they all just make me smile. Even the worst gardener can grow daylilies. Considered one of the hardiest, most drought resistant, foul proof perennials, daylily's can take a licking and keep on ticking. With a lot of sunshine and a little watering during establishment you have a friend that give smiles on top of smiles. And when they multiply and get crowded you can share and give your neighbor or friend a lot of smiles.

If you are looking for a family outing that will even bring a smile to that bored child, go daylily farm hopping. Daylily farms are hot and are springing-up all over South Carolina, just look for the signs. You may also go without leaving home, most daylily farms have sites on the internet. When my kids were young every time they would say they were bored, I would say "I did not know that you were a rectangular piece of wood, a board."

If you don't like the flower colors you have, hybridize them. This is a fancy term for crossing. Daylilies are easily crossed. First, collect the open flowers in the morning and place in a refrigerator. Next, about lunch time tear open a flower that will open tomorrow and remove the male part (stamens). Next, transfer (rub) the pollen onto the female (pistil) portion of a flower. Next, cover the pistil with a small tube made of aluminum foil and hang a tag on the flower to mark your cross. Finally, when the seed pod is mature collect, plant, and grow plants from the seed.

To learn more about decorating, gardening and country living watch both of our Emmy Award winning T.V. programs, Making-It-Grow (MIG) and Down Home with Tony and Amanda. MIG can be seen at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights on regular ETV. However, at present Down Home can be seen on digital cable and some satellite systems on the SC Channel (channel 802 on Time Warner Cable). Both can be seen at anytime on www.mig.org.

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